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WENDELL R. ANDERSON
MINNESOTA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ASAP

October 20, 1977

cc: final

Mr. Thomas Jorling
Assistant Administrator
for Water & Hazardous Materials
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Waterside Mall
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Jorling:

Enclosed is a summary discussion of a critical problem facing the City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota. The city desires to apply for federal funds under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Safe Drinking Water Act or other statutes to pay for the cost of abating and monitoring the groundwater pollution described in the enclosed summary.

I would appreciate your advising me of any available sources of funds to assist the city in this regard, and, the procedures and requirements for the city to apply and qualify for any grant funds.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Wendell R. Anderson
U.S. Senator

WRA:mh

Enclosure

STUDY RESULTS OF SOIL AND GROUNDWATER POLLUTION INVESTIGATION

City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota

BACKGROUND

For 50 years, Reilly Tar and Chemical Company, a coal tar distillation and wood preserving facility, operated in the center of the City. During this operation, spills occurred and wastes were reportedly discharged into the environment. A consulting firm was hired to assess the impacts of this facility on the soil and groundwater systems in the area. The study objectives measured:

1) The extent of coal tar waste in the soil;

2) Effects of these wastes on surficial and bedrock groundwater quality;

3) Interaction between the surficial groundwater systems and the underlying bedrock aquifers;

4) Predictions of future impact of the waste deposit on groundwater quality; and

5) Recommended corrective actions and future studies necessary to solve any identified problems.

STUDY FINDINGS

Study findings indicate detectable quantities of coal tar derivatives in the soil borings taken. The groundwater in the glacial drift is contaminated with coal tar derivatives. Measurable quantities of phenolic and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons such as pyrine were found. Some of these materials were found at a depth of 50 feet below the ground surface, and these wastes have traveled at least 1,000 feet to the southeast from their original origin at the distillation plant. The movement rate is estimated to be between 30 and 150 feet per year and through time, it is possible that the contamination could reach the groundwater aquifers used for domestic purposes. The consultant recommends that certain wells in the area that are uncased could provide potential pathways for groundwater. Also, certain existing wells which are being used act as barriers to waste movement. The consultant suggests barrier wells to contain the contamination.

COST OF ABATEMENT

Three gradient control wells and two monitoring wells	$25,000
Sanitary sewer connections from the gradient control wells	8,000
Abandonment and grouting of existing uncased wells	50,000
Cost to replace abandoned municipal Well No. 3	40,000
Engineering costs	20,000
Sewer connection charge	90,000
Operative cost	17,000
Additional studies	40,000

GRANTS

Water Pollution control - State and Interstate Program Grants (Section 106 Grants) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended;

Drinking Water Supply-Technical Assistance; Public Health Service Act, as amended, Sections 301, 311 and 361;

Water Pollution Control - State and Area-Wide Water Quality Management Planning Agency; Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Amendments of 1972.